

Appl. No. 09/891/272
Amdt. Dated 11/21/03
Reply to Office action of July 24, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0087] with the follow amended paragraph:

[0087] To a solution of 3.00 g carboxydextran (prepared as in Example 6, degree of substitution 0.11) in 150 mL of 4 mM MES, pH 6.1 was added 150 mL of a 6.6 mg/mL dispersion of silanized colloidal aggregates of magnetizable iron oxide (prepared as in Example 4) in 10 mM MES, pH 6.1. The resulting mixture was stored overnight at room temperature. A solution of 1.37 g N-hydroxysuccinimide and 6.41 g EDAC in 25 mL water was then added, and the reaction mixture was stored overnight at room temperature. The carboxydextran-coated magnetizable aggregates were purified as described below. The coated aggregates were assayed for dextran and Fe and found to have 0.24 mg dextran per mg Fe. A dried sample was found to have a saturation magnetization of 55 emu/g, a remanent magnetization of 1.17 emu/g, and a coercive force of 8 Oe. The carboxydextran-coated magnetizable aggregates prepared in this manner were shown by dynamic light scatter to have a volume-weighted average diameter of 190 nm [[+]], S.D.=60 nm. Examination of an electron micrograph of the coated aggregates revealed that the aggregates were irregular clusters of crystallites, and that the crystallites had diameters ranging from about 5 to 20 nm.